

CONFIDENTIAL
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Director of Central Intelligence

74 JAN 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : National Intelligence Council

1. Effective 3 December 1979, the Director of Central Intelligence authorized the establishment of the National Intelligence Council as the principal organization in CIA charged with fulfilling that Agency's responsibilities in producing national intelligence estimates and other interagency assessments. The NIC will report to the Deputy Director, National Foreign Assessment, and through him to the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. Organization: The National Intelligence Council is chaired by Richard Lehman, who will also serve as National Intelligence Officer for Warning. The other principal members are:

Associate Chairman: Vacant
National Intelligence Officer/Africa: L. Gray Cowan
National Intelligence Officer/China and East Asia:
 Amb. John H. Holdridge
National Intelligence Officer/General Purpose Forces:
 MGen. Paul E. Gorman, USA
National Intelligence Officer/Latin America: Jack Davis
National Intelligence Officer/Near East and South Asia:
 Robert C. Ames
National Intelligence Officer/Strategic Programs: Howard
 Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer/USSR and Eastern Europe:
 Arnold L. Horelick
National Intelligence Officer/Western Europe: Joe L. Zaring
(4) National Intelligence Officers-at-Large: Hans Heymann, Jr.
 (3 vacancies)

(Three former NIO accounts -- Nuclear Proliferation, Political-Economy, and Special Studies -- will from now on be handled at a different level.) Other elements of the NIC will include the Assistant NIOs, who will continue to work under and, as necessary, substitute for their principals, and a relatively small Analytic Group. This will be made up of officers

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

with broad substantive and regional expertise and proven writing skills, drawn from NFIB agencies and to some extent from outside government. Its numbers in general will serve with the NIC on rotational assignments of two or three years. The Analytic Group's principal function will be to draft national intelligence estimates* and other assessments under the guidance of the appropriate NIOs. []

25X1

3. Purpose: The primary purpose of the National Intelligence Council is to improve the quality of national-level intelligence assessments. Formation of the Analytic Group, whose resources will be wholly dedicated to and trained in the production of such assessments, will reduce our need to call upon the other NFIB agencies of CIA/NFAC for drafting assistance from their frequently overburdened staffs. The creation of the Analytic Group should also help reduce delays in the production process. Further improvement should stem from the regular collegial review of each assessment that will be a principal function of the four new National Intelligence Officers-at-Large, each of whom will bring to bear a wide range of substantive strengths on the critical review of drafts. []

25X1

4. Community Role: Another important purpose in creating the NIC is to make it possible to enhance each individual NIO's role as substantive adviser to and surrogate for the DCI within his own field of expertise and as the Intelligence Community's manager of national intelligence production in that field. Each NIO will continue to work directly with and represent the DCI as before. The NIO also continues to be the principal mechanism for ensuring that national intelligence production is relevant to the consumers' needs. Creating the NIC and providing it with its own staff structure should make it easier for each NIO to perform these important Community-related roles than in recent years. It is important to note that while the NIC reports to the Deputy Director, National Foreign Assessment and must necessarily draw heavily upon NFAC resources, it is an Intelligence Community-related organization with a national role and is not a unit of NFAC. []

25X1

5. What we seek to establish is, in sum, a fortified NIO system with somewhat more structural coherence, with modest analytical resources of its own, and with a charter that permits and encourages the NIOs to work more closely with their associates in the intelligence and national security policymaking communities. To that end, we solicit your cooperation and support, and we invite your comments. In particular, we invite you to nominate officers possessing broad substantive expertise and first-rate drafting ability as candidates for rotational assignment to the Analytic Group. []

25X1

STANSFIELD TURNER

*Most military estimates, however, will continue to be produced by interagency teams, and other estimates and assessments will on occasion be drafted by non-NIC officers when the best or most appropriate drafters are to be found outside the NIC. []

25X1

SUBJECT: The Community and the National Intelligence Council

Distribution:

Orig - DCI (to be given to NFIB Exec. Sec.)
1 - DDCI
1 - ER
1 - DD/NFA
1 - C/NIC
1 - NFAC Registry